

Amendments to the Specification

- 1) Please insert the following subtitle at page 1, below the title:

Background

- 2) Please delete the text found at page 1, lines 4 – 8.

- 3) Please insert the following subtitle and text at page 2, line 33:

Summary

The present invention relates to a method of operating a production plant and also relates to a production plant. The production plant comprises a gas mixture treatment unit supplied with electricity used, for example, to operate a compressor for the gas mixture to be treated.

- 4) Please insert the following subtitle and text at page 3, line 38:

Brief Description of the Drawing

For a further understanding of the nature and objects for the present invention, reference should be made to the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which like elements are given the same or analogous reference numbers and wherein:

- Figure 1 illustrates a schematic view of one embodiment of a combined gas consumption and air separation unit, according to the current invention.

- 5) Please insert the following subtitle and text after the above-inserted paragraphs:

Description of Preferred Embodiments

The invention provides a method of operating a production plant comprising at least one unit for treating at least one gas mixture, said unit delivering at least one fluid to a consumer and being supplied with electricity, in which method:

- the treatment unit is operated during periods in which the cost of electricity is above a first predefined threshold and during periods in which the cost of electricity is below a second predefined threshold, the first threshold being greater than or equal to the second threshold;
- during at least one period in which the cost of electricity is below the second threshold, at least one portion of the fluid is stored, in liquid and/or gaseous form, in at least one storage tank;

- during at least one period in which the cost of electricity is above the first threshold, the fluid is delivered to the consumer from at least one storage tank after a vaporization step if it is stored in liquid form; and
- during at least one period in which the cost of electricity is below the second threshold, at least one fluid is produced, in a line of the treatment unit, with a predefined purity, a predefined flow rate, a predefined temperature and a predefined pressure in the treatment unit;

characterized in that, during at least one period in which the cost of electricity is above the first threshold, the power consumption of the treatment unit is reduced, relative to the power consumption of the treatment unit when the cost of electricity is below the second threshold, and all or a portion of the fluid is produced in the line of the treatment unit with a purity below the predefined purity and/or a flow rate below the predefined flow rate and/or a temperature below the predefined temperature and/or a pressure below the predefined pressure and is sent elsewhere than to a consumer, possibly being at least partly vented.

6) Please delete the text at page 8, lines 1 – 10.

7) Please insert the following paragraph at page 11, line 27:

It will be understood that many additional changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have been herein described in order to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art within the principle and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the specific embodiments in the examples given above.

8) Please replace the subtitle at page 12, line 1, with the following text:

CLAIMS What is claimed is:

9) Please delete page the 17th page in its entirety.